

proper sentiment, not only as it concerns the temperance question, but all moral questions and reforms. If our local papers would do their duty, the police force would cost far less than it does. The moral sentiment would be stronger, men would cease advocating the license of houses of prostitution, and the introduction of new saloons, gambling halls, the awful shocking impurities of men and women, would stir society to the center and wring from it a protest that would be felt throughout the entire community. Naturally the secular paper is more handicapped than the religious press, but too often both are in the position of the colored boy when he said, "the one is afraid and the other darsent." What would we think of a pastor who sought only to echo the opinions, the feelings and the tastes of his congregation, putting in a secondary place, or totally obscuring, the right and the truth, thus surrendering that initiative and that leadership which is the privilege, the duty and the opportunity of the preacher. The same reprehension rests upon a pusillanimous and servile religious press which will not emphasize the temperance reform for fear of offending some of its patrons and reducing its revenues. If we could but persuade them that interest lies in the direction of duty, perhaps this double incentive might reinforce their hesitating courage.

Discussion may arise as to what form of the temperance movement the press should espouse, and it may not be too much to say that refuge from responsibility in the main premises has been sought in disagreement as to the methods proposed. But the question of method is really a matter of secondary importance. It goes for the saying that the saloon should be attacked in the stronghold of its power, but whether this can be best accomplished by besieging its Santiago, or its Havana, may safely be left to that instinct of strategy, that sagacity of battle, which shall come when all the energies of the Christian church are marshalled. Attack somewhere. Strike whichever head of the hydra appears to be nearer you, or more instinct with its baleful vitality.

But the great work of the hour is to arouse the conscience of the church. When Danton was asked how to advance the fortunes of the young republic in the face of its numerous and powerful enemies, he replied, "By audacity, and again I say, audacity, and always audacity." We would give like watchword to the wavering hosts of the religious press in the struggle against the gigantic iniquity of the saloon. Let us agitate, and again agitate, and always agitate. Within the memory of men still living is the marvelous process by which the place called Hell Gate Rock, near New York City, was opened for what is now its present magnificent harbor. It was a dangerous place for navigators, practically an impassable gate. What is to be done? Will New York forever put up with that dangerous enemy to its commerce? No. Science made an attack upon those nine acres of solid rock. The

Times of that date tells how the harbor was opened. Men went down into that great rocky region, pierced the rock and filled the cavities with dynamite. It was a slow process. The year passed and another, and still Hell Gate defies navigation. Finally the end has come. The rock has been hammered, tunnelled, pierced charged with dynamite, but it is still there and not a ship dare come near. But the scientific engineer knew more than the ignorant people, and he says we are ready now. People held their breath. Eyes were strained and riveted on the bare brown rock. General Newton, the engineer tells his own little girl, far off, over on the Astoria shore, to touch the tiny knob which was to free the imprisoned forces. The spark is communicated, and the nine acres of rock, and all the water floating over them, are heaved two hundred feet into the air in the twinkling of an eye,—rent, torn, never to be put together again. A deep rumble, then a dull boom, like the smothered bursting of a hundred mighty guns far away beyond the blue horizon, rolled across the yellow river. Three magnificent monuments of solid water sprang far above the rest of the mass, the most westerly of them still rising after all else had begun to fall, till it towered nearly 300 feet into the air. Far and wide the great wall spread, defying the human eye to take in its breadth and height and thickness. For a trembling moment the sublime spectacle stood against the sky, like a mighty vision of distant snow capped mountains. Then down, and down, and still down the enormous mass rushed with a wild hissing, as if ten thousand huge steam valves had been opened. All around the rocks, the river swirled and rolled and leaped upward, like the whirlpool of Niagara. Just 21,670 feet of tunnelling, in galleries whose floors lay 50 to 64 feet below mean low tide, with walls from 10 to 24 feet thick between them, and supported by 467 columns of rock, each 15 feet square, had been charged with cartridges filled with explosives. In an instant the tremendous convulsion of an explosion reaching those four miles of galleries tore the solid rock asunder, and hurled them in broken masses into the waters of the river. Hell Gate had lost its dangers, and the wrinkled front of navigation thro the Sound was smoothed into an inviting smile. Ocean steamers found 26 feet of clear water over the once treacherous bottom, and a new highway was opened for the commerce of the world.

The liquor traffic is the solid rock in the channel of navigation. Who will dare cross it? The ship of state and the old ship Zion have more than once been all but wrecked on these treacherous rocks. Who will dare insert the dynamite that will blow to pieces this dangerous enemy of civilization? We have been picking at it, but we are careful not to disturb the beast too much, for when once the monster is pinched to his hurt, there will be a crushing of innocent lives. Let there be a union of the forces of right against this enemy of the church and all that is good and

pure in our civilization. Let the pulpit and press keep up the agitation, sow the seed of divine truth in the hearts of the young, mould public opinion, for these are the dynamite that will eventually tear up root and branch this awful curse and scatter it to the four corners of the earth; then will the ship of state sail proudly onward; then will the chariot wheel of Christianity roll on unmolested by this demon, and from the north and the south, from the east and the west, we shall soon hear the marching of the millions when the armies of the Lord shall come up against this Enemy of Man, and trample it forever into the dust. And there shall be a new birth of human freedom, a new heaven of hope and joy, and a new earth wherein shall dwell peace and righteousness.

No paper next week. See page 14.

#### Our Missions

On another page will be found the October report of the National Mission Board by the secretary, J. C. Cassel. While the report is a better showing than the last month, yet it is not what it ought to be, and what it might easily be if the church were interested as it ought to be. It is not sufficient to meet the present expenses of the Board. The Board has curtailed expenses without materially contracting its work, and it is to be hoped that the brotherhood will give its hearty support to the several missions now established, and instead of decreasing contributions, increase them so that the Board may enlarge its work. This is what should be done; this is what we can easily do, and not even make much sacrifice. Please remember that giving brings its richest blessings only when it is done at a sacrifice, that is when we give so as to feel it. The church needs above all things awaken to a sense of its responsibility touching missionary work; it has too long been neglected, and this accounts for the slow progress in other departments of church work. Permit us to suggest an experiment: Let each congregation begin now to do something for missions, do it each month, or at least regularly, and you will find new life coming into your congregation, interest in all the departments of church work increasing, your plans unconsciously enlarging and the home work made far easier. God's people enjoy the richest blessings only when engaged in carrying out the great purpose for which the Christian church was organized and equipped.

#### Crowded Out

To make room for all the church news, "Brief Notes" are crowded out this week. There being no paper next week, an effort was made to give room for all church news at hand.

Better holy hunger than sinful satisfaction.